DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 380 320 SO 024 146

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TITLE Naming the Land. A Study of West Virginia Place Names.
PUB DATE Dec 90
NOTE 78p.; M.A. Thesis, Salem-Teikyo University.
AVAILABLE FROM Benedum Library, Salem-Teikyo University, Salem, WV 26526 ($.10/page plus $3 shipping/handling).
PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141) -- Dissertations/Theses - Masters Theses (042)

EDRS PRICE MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Elementary Secondary Education; *Geographic Concepts; *Geographic Location; *Geography; Geography Instruction; History Instruction; State History
IDENTIFIERS *Place Names; *West Virginia

ABSTRACT

This study is an investigation into the place names of West Virginia to see if they reveal a record of the history of the state. It was found that the study of place names is indeed a study of the history of the land, because the people who inhabit the land give names to it that commemorate themselves, their deeds, and their passions. The study of West Virginia place names proved to be an historical record much like an archaeological dig. Like a dig, it gives insight into the lives of earlier inhabitants. Most West Virginia place names appear to have been formed during the earliest days of the white man's discovery and settlement of the land rather than in the decades that followed. It is also important to note that current place names only reveal insight into the activities of people whose language was known. Consequently, place names given by civilizations before the Indians have been lost to present day people. Nevertheless, the study of West Virginia place names does give a significant historical record of the individuals who inhabited the state. Those names reflect the interests, occupations, activities, desires, and whims of past people. Toponyms, place names, whether descriptive or personal, reveal the historical and social process that has shaped the land. The plan of this research was to record a part of this process. An enriching, human interest history of the state's inhabitants, by examining some significant and vital place names, produces information that can be used in teaching either geography or history. (Author/DK)

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NAMING THE LAND

A STUDY OF WEST VIRGINIA PLACE NAMES

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by

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A thesis

submitted in partial fulfillment

of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts

Salem-Teikyo University

December 1990

SO 024 146

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ABSTRACT

NAMING THE LAND

A STUDY OF WEST VIRGINIA PLACE NAMES

Jon Amundson

Naming the Land is an investigation into the place names of West Virginia to see if they reveal a record of the history of the state. It was found that the study of place names is indeed a study of the history of the land, because the people who inhabit the land give names to it that commemorate themselves, their deeds, and their passions. The study of West Virginia place names proved to be an historical record much like an archaeological dig. It gives insight into the lives of earlier inhabitants.

However, the study of place names must be approached cautiously. Not every hero has a town named for him, and not every place name reveals a significant historical event.

Most West Virginia place names appear to have been formed during the earliest days of the white man's discovery and settlement of the land than in the decades that followed. It is also important to note that current place names only reveal insight into the activities of men whose language was known. Consequently, place names given by civilizations before the Indians have been lost to present day man.

Nevertheless, the study of West Virginia place names does give a significant historical record of the men who inhabited the state. Those names reflect his interests, his occupations, his activities, his desires, and his whims.

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INTRODUCTION

Toponyms

If the study of place names is approached cautiously, it can reveal a much more interesting history than history itself. It can do this because name designations sometimes survive invasions and conquests, and they frequently reveal the names of the occupants of the land. People also have a tendency to change the names of places. Many villages and towns have had several earlier names. Each change reflects a change in the life of the individuals who inhabit the area.

Thus the question arises: Are West Virginia place names a significant record of the life and interests of the inhabitants of the state? The answer must certainly be in the affirmative. The diversity of West Virginia place names is a picture of the history, social life, and culture of those people who have occupied the land.

There is little certainty about the earliest inhabitants of West Virginia. The only knowledge that authorities have of the Mound Builders comes from archaeological discoveries. They are referred to as the Adena and Hopewell peoples, but those names were certainly not their own. They undoubtedly had names for villages and streams in the Ohio and Kanawha

valleys, but the names of those places today would be alien to the Mound Builders. Their memory is commemorated in such place names as Moundsville and Grave Creek.

More is known about the Indians. Although a large Indian village existed at Buffalo in Putnam County between 1600 and 1700, its name is unknown today. To a large extent, West Virginia was uninhabited at the coming of the white man. True Indian place names are rare and largely confined to rivers and streams. This sprinkling of native place names, however, gives many examples of true descriptive place names rather than people's names.

There is a great deal of certainty about the first European settlers of West Virginia. The first settlers gave the place a name that would state their claim to it. Thus many native place names, and they must have been legion, were swept away before the tide of European settlement in the decades prior to the American Revolution.

Thus toponyms, place names, are worthy of serious study. Names, whether descriptive or personal, and as varied and picturesque as they are, reveal the historical and social process that has shaped the land.

The plan of this research was to record a part of this process. The aim is an enriching, human-interest history of the state's inhabitants by examining some significant and vital place names.

CHAPTER 1

Mountains and Streams

Very few place names survive from before the white man began to penetrate the wilderness that is now West Virginia. The few place names that do exist give testimony of the Indian tribes and their languages. The first explorers relied on their native guides for names and followed the "customary pattern of adopting the place names of earlier inhabitants" (15:379). This fact is revealed in the names of many of the rivers and large creeks in West Virginia. Other names have been borrowed, adapted, or translated into English and still survive. These rivers and streams were major routes through the high and difficult mountains.

West Virginia is sometimes called The Mountain State. The name is appropriate for one can not visit any part of the state and not be in the shadow of the mountains or hills. The Indians also knew this area by their names for the mountains. Appalachia and its sister name Allegheny both have Indian origins. Appalachia means "the endless mountain" (6:83). Indeed the mountain chain must have seemed endless to the Indians because it stretches far to the north and the south. Allegheny has a similar meaning. Smith describes it as "the verbal expression of an Indian idea of eternity" (14:1). The Delaware name for the mountains was Allickewany:

"He is leaving and may never return, a reference to the departure of warriors and hunters into the forest" (6:76).

A significant category of Indian names are those for the routes into and out of the mountains. These rivers, flowing eastward, northward, and westward, were the main travel arteries for the native Americans.

When the white men first began to settle on the Potomac, they renamed the river the Elizabeth River (6:505). This name did not long survive and was replaced by the native word now rendered Potomac. The meaning of this word is doubtful, but it appears to indicate something brought or the route in which something is brought (6:504). The name may be a reference to the wealth brought out of the mountains. The name, however, was not originally a name applied to a river that is now in West Virginia. The Indians used the word to apply to the river "from its ocean mouth to the junction of the Shenandoah" (6:504). Above it the river became known as the Wappacomo and the Cohongoronto. The meanings of these names are lost. Today those rivers are known respectively as the South Branch and North Branch of the Potomac (14:124).

The Shenandoah is another descriptive place name borrowed from the aboriginal inhabitants. Its original form has been variously written Gerando, Sherandoach, and Sherando and appears to mean "the daughter (or river) of the stars (or skies)." The name refers to the river's reflection of the sky and stars in its waters (6:572). Fortunately the name

bestowed by Gov. Spottswood in 1716, when he and his Knights of the Golden Horseshoe first saw the river, has not survived. He called it the Euphrates (6:572).

The Monongahela descends from the white man's attempt to render a Delaware Indian name (Mehmannauwinggehilau) into a form more manageable to him. It has been translated "many landslides" or "place of caving or falling banks" and refers to a characteristic of the river (6:425).

The Youghiogheny, a tributary of the Monongahela, gave its name to a "lost" county of Virginia which today lies mainly in Pennsylvania. It appears to mean, according to Kenny, "a stream flowing in a contrary (or circuitous) course." This is also a descriptive name and is derived from yiough meaning "four" and hanne meaning "river" and refers to the winding course of the main river and its three main branches (6:696).

The Pocatalico, which flows through Kanawha, Putnam, and Roane Counties, retains its original Indian name and is universally interpreted as meaning "river of the fat doe" or the place of "plenty of fat doe" (6:496)

The great westward-flowing river of West Virginia, the Ohio, is a corruption of a longer Indian word or phrase, but most authorities believe its original meaning was roughly translated the "River of White Caps."

"The early Moravian settlers, who made it their duty to learn . . . the Indian languages affirm 'oyo' means 'very'

and that the full name was Oyo-peck-han-ne meaning 'very white river'" (6:455). The various Indian tribes apparently agreed upon the meaning of the river's name because the Delavare word for the river (O-h-i-o-ple) meant the river of whitecaps. The name is a description of a frequent condition of the river when the surface is stirred by winds from the southwest which cover the river with whitecaps (6:455).

The names of the Kanawha River and the Guyandot River fall into a different category. They are not descriptive place names but are Indian tribal names. The Conoys occupied the Kanawha valley until about 1705 when they went to New York and were absorbed into the Six Nations. The name Kanawha was not applied to the river until 1760-70 (6:343). The Guyandot River is derived from a misunderstanding of the name for the Wyandot Indians which were once so influential in the Ohio valley (6:289). Patrick Henry referred to the Guyandot as Arbuckle's River in 1769, but in 1774 the river was called Gui-an-dot by surveyors and has since been known by that name (6:288).

Many of these names are recognized by students of not only West Virginia history but also American history, but where is the Chatterawha, the Tis-chil-waugh, the Mo-mom-ga-sen-eka, and the Nee-mos-kee-sy? These name reflect the tendency of the early Virginia explorers to translate the Indian names into their own language and keep that name.

Chatteravha was an Indian word meaning "River of Sand Bars." When the meaning of the word was translated for the early explorers, they easily changed the name to the Big Sandy River (6:114). Tischilwaugh was the Shawnee name for "Plenty of Fat Elk." The early explorers chose to use their own more familiar and more meaningful translation: Elk River (6:226). Momomgaseneka, which to the Delaware meant "Big Stone Creek," the English chose to change to Bluestone River. Although not a literal translation, the English name still refers to the large blue limestone boulders over which the river flows (6:121). It is interesting to note that the Delaware name for the Greenbrier River was Onepakecepe which means "Blue Stone River" (6:283). The Neemoskeesy meant "Place of Fish" to the Delaware Indians and was the name of a creek emptying into the Ohio River in Wetzel County. The Virginians had little difficulty with their own version of the word: Fishing Creek (6:243).

A river that bears both its Indian name and its new English designation is that of the Lost River/Cacapon River. In its upper course it is known as the Lost River because it abruptly disappears beneath Sandy Ridge. Some miles further, and on the other side of the mountain, it arises from the ground near Wardensville. Now it is called the Cacapon River. Cacapon is the Indian word meaning "to appear" (14:142).

Of special interest in the study of Indian place names is Wheeling. While it is a genuine Indian place name (originally written Weeling), it dates from after the arrival of the white men and shows the beginning of the conflict between the races.

When Capt. Bienville de Celoron descended the Ohio River in command of a a detachment of French soldiers and Iroquois guides, he stopped at the mouth of present-day Wheeling Creek on August 13, 1749 to bury one of his leaden plates, claiming possession of the country in the name of Louis XV. At that time the creek bore the name of Kanououara (8:36).

Six years later, however, a map published in London clearly identifies Wheeling Island and Wheeling Creek. The name change is explained by John Brittle who was captured near Wheeling by the Delaware Indians in 1791 and lived with them five years. He stated that:

> Chief Hainguypooshies (Big Cat) told him that the first white settlers venturing down the Ohio were captured and beheaded by a band of Delawares, and the heads placed on poles near the mouth of the stream as a warning to other invading whites (17:283).

Wheeling means the "place of the skull" and is another example of the descriptive place names of the Indians.

Many names have been completely lost. Nau-mis-sip-pia was the name of the present-day Little Kanawha River. It came from the Delaware name naumis "fish" and sipis "river" (6:377). Middle Island Creek was known to the Indians as By-yan-soss. The white men named it the Louisa River, but

that was shortly exchanged for the present-day name (12:5). The Mondongachate was the Indian name for the "great river" found by the Batts and Fallam party on September 1, 1671. They renamed it the Wood's River after their patron Abraham Wood. Neither name has survived. Today it is known as the New River (14:43).

These place names give a portrait of the Indians who had an interest in West Virginia. Most of them are descriptive of a condition of the river, a purpose of the river, or of wildlife that could be found along the river. Taken as a whole, these names reflect a race who were keenly attuned to the natural world and its beauties, who used the area as a hunting ground, and who were ready to fight to protect their interest in the territory.

CHAPTER 2

Exploring the Land

In the eighteenth century, the first white men to enter the territory of western Virginia were hunters and trappers. Many of the earliest names given to places in West Virginia were bestowed by these intrepid explorers. These men were attracted to the western Virginia wilderness primarily for furs. While these hunters used the game for food, considered good in every month with an "R" in its name, it was the fur that provided money for the most valuable and necessary items such as rifles, salt, and iron (18:163). On a hunting trip in 1750, Dr. Thomas Walker wrote: "We killed in the Journey 13 buffaloes, 8 Elks, 53 Bears, 20 Deer, 4 Wild Geese, about 150 Turkeys, besides small Game. We might have killed three times as much meat, if we had wanted it" (25:16). Dr. John P. Hales states that in one three year period "eight thousand bear skins were shipped from the mouths of the Guyandot and Big Sandy Rivers alone!" (11:4).

These early explorers followed Indian or animal paths known as traces. Kenny quotes Roosevelt as saying that "the backwoods men generally used 'trace' where western frontiersmen would now say 'trail'." (11:630) Today this term is still found as the name of many streams--Trace Branch, Trace Creek, Trace Fork, Trace Run and Trace Fork

Branch. Trace is also the name of a small town in Mingo County.

Many of the early routes through the wilderness of West Virginia followed the early buffalo trails. Many of the place names reflect the presence of the mighty American bison. Buffalo, a town on the Kanawha River in Putnam County, was named ". . . for the American bison whose trail cuts through this valley." (28:183.) U. S. Route 40, one of the earliest east-west routes in West Virginia was formerly called "The Buffalo Trail" (4:78). Many of the place names reflect the presence of the mighty American bison. One of the earliest references to a name of this type was made in 1747 by George Washington in his Journal of My Journey. He mentions ". . . the No[rth] Branch of Bullskin . . ." (11:139). This stream in West Virginia's eastern most county was named in reference to the skin of a buffalo bull. From this point the names march across the state indicating the importance of the animal to the earliest white men.

Almost every county in West Virginia has a Buffalo Creek or a Buffalo Run. Buffalo Pond in Monongalia County is described by Samuel T. Wiley as "a long narrow hollow with high rocky sides running from Cheat River" (11:138). The hollow was apparently used by the Indians before the advent of the white man as a buffalo trap. This animal appears to have been especially plentiful along the larger streams in the western part of the state where a number of streams

indicate its presence. Gist's Journal dated February 27, 28, 29, 1751, somewhere south of Fishing Creek in present-day Tyler County stated: "Rained and we could not travel--Killed four Buffaloes.: (4:78). Pleasants County has a Cow Creek, a Calf Creek, and a Bull Creek: all are probably named for the buffalo. These names as well as names such as Buffalo Stamping Ground, Bull Pasture Mountain, and Buffalo Bull Knob testify to the presence of the buffalo that was met by the hunters in their first excursions into the unknown wilds of present-day West Virginia.

While the buffalo may have been the largest and most dominant quarry, it was by no means the only one. The elk and deer were also important animals. From the elk are Elk Creek, Elk Garden, Elkhorn Creek, Elk View (which indicates a good place from which to view elk) (11:227), and Elkwater.

Elk Creek in Harrison County was named by John Simpson, an early trapper when he saw many large herds of elk standing in the creek (11:255). Colonel Preston appears to be responsible for the naming of another Elk Creek in Logan county when his men killed an elk and camped upon the stream for the night (11:255).

While some of the many Buck Runs around the state may have come from a surname, Kenny states " the abundance of West Virginia place and geographic names obviously from the animal makes it likely that such was the origin of the name" (11:134). In addition to Buck Run are found a Buckhorn in

Preston County, a Buck and Doe Trail in Pocahontas County, a Doe Run in Taylor County, a Fawn Hollow in Lincoln County, and a Venison Fork in Braxton County and countless other names that obviously were derived from the deer. Deer Creek in Nicholas County and Deer Run in Pendleton County were named owing to the deer that were plentiful in the hills and valleys. Wood County's Deer Walk was so named because the early settlers knew the place as a deer crossing.(11:204)

A great many heroic tales center around these early hunters and their encounters with the panther. McDowell's Panther Creek was named when Tommie Lester had to resort to his dogs and his bowie knife when his gun failed to fire when he encountered a panther there (11:471). Panther Mountain in Nicholas County was named when Captain George Fitzwater went into the woods near High Rocks and killed two deer. He bent a sapling and hung one on it thinking to return and get it the next day. Upon his return, he found two panthers feasting on the deer. He shot one. "The other was so enraged that it rushed upon him before he got his gun loaded again so he threw gun powder in its eyes which caused the panther to retreat to a safe distance until he got his gun loaded and shot it also..." (11:473). Similar accounts of bravery may account for Panther Branch (Kanawha County), Panther Hollow (Monroe County), and Panther Knob (Summers County).

Typical of place names that reflect this earliest industry in West Virginia is Skin Creek in Lewis County. This creek was apparently named about 1783, but the area was known by John Hacker and other hunters and trappers before 1772 (11:583-4). On hunting trips it was not uncommon for enormous numbers of skins to be taken in one day. McWhorter records one hunt which took place in 1779: "Everything arranged the hunt began and in the evening when the game was tallied and the bullets all accounted for, the score stood 19 for Hughes and West, and 21 for the colonels. The next morning the game was skinned . . ." (11:584).

It was also common for hunters to pack their skins in bundles and submerge them in deep creeks. There they were secured with stones until time could be found to load them on packhorses and send them to eastern markets on packhorses. An early name for Shepherdstown was Pack Horse Ford (28:127). Apparently Skin Creek earned its name when a spring flood dislodged a number of "cached skins" from the bottom of the creek. Eyewitnesses say that following the flood the stream was literally covered with skins (11:584).

At a very early date trading posts developed where the hunters and trappers brought furs and exchanged for goods. One of these posts was developed by John Bradshaw in Pocahontas County. To this Bradshaw's cabin, soon after the beginning of the nineteenth century, John Harness began to haul needed goods across the mountains from Staunton. During

the trading season, hunters began to swarm to this place, the trading post giving rise to a town that was to serve briefly as the first county seat of Pocahontas County. As a special compliment to the hunters and trappers the town was named Huntersville (25:27). The names of Hunting Ground Mountain (which gave rise to the village of Hunting Ground) in Pendleton County, and Hunter's Fork in Barbour County in a similar way reflect the choice hunting ground frequented by these early hunters. The names these early settlers gave to places show not only how great the supply of game was but how important it was in the lives of the early pioneers.

However it was not only the skins of animals that attracted the early hunters. Even a cursory look at a map of West Virginia shows geographical names such as: Nettle Mountain, Black Gum Hollow, Locust Creek, Red Oak Knob, Cattail Run, Maple Branch, Cranberry Glades, Peeled Chestnut Gap, Dogwood Ridge, and Grape Island. The abundance of these names reveals that the land explored by the first white men was a true wilderness, stretching from valley to ridge in an endless westward succession of valleys and ridges. Yet it was just this wilderness that attracted the first English-speaking inhabitants of the country.

Ginseng was considered a panacea in the eighteenth century (25:13) and soon became a prized article for the hunters in the western mountains. All of the salt procured by the early inhabitants of northwestern Virginia was

transported from Baltimore on horseback and was in turn paid for in "sang root . . . for which at that time there was a great demand in the markets of Baltimore: (18:316). This fact is verified by George Washington, who while crossing the mountains in September 1784, wrote: "I met numbers of Persons and Packhorses going in with Ginseng; and for Salt and other articles at the Markets below" (25:13).

All areas of the state appear to have had this plant in abundance. Maxwell in writing about Barbour County states that ginseng was dug there for export as early as 1786, (13:312) and Haymond in writing of Harrison County states that ginseng "which grew in the woods, was gathered and shipped East . . . and became quite a profitable article of commerce" (8:167).

Indeed Milburn Creek in Fayette County was named for a man by that name who came from Monroe County every year in the early eighteenth century to dig ginseng along that creek (25:14). A number of streams bear the name of the "sang root" throughout the state. There are four Seng Runs recorded in the West Virginia Gazetteer of Physical and Cultural Place Names. Fayette County also has a Seng Branch, Boone County has a Seng Creek and a Seng Fork, Logan County boasts a Seng Camp Creek, and a Sang Run can be found in Calhoun county. All indicate the abundance and importance of this plant.

Other products of the great woods were also known by this first visitors. The service tree, the first to bloom in the spring, was used as a sign of the coming of spring (8:166). The crab apple figures prominently as a name and reflects a fruit used universally by the first white men (8:167). Many names reflect nuts found to be edible by man and animals. But the tree that figures most dominant was the sugar maple, which provided great comfort to the earliest inhabitants since it was the main source of sweetener. The importance of this tree is reflected in countless Sugar Creeks, Sugar Runs, Sugar Knobs, and Sugar Groves.

This continuous search for plants and animal skins took men farther and farther from their homes. The Rev. Francis Asbury described this situation in 1796: He wrote the "men were all in the woods, some hunting, some digging gensing [sic] and snakeroot and did not come back at night" (11:17). This continual absence at greater distances from homes necessitated the establishment of shelters and camps. Consequently western Virginia became dotted with camps. There are communities today known as Camp, there are numerous Camp Creeks; there are Rock Camp Runs, Camp Branches, and Camp Runs. There is a Henry Camp in Pleasants County and a Lynn Camp Run in Ritchie County which was named for a camp of Lynn wood that was constructed by hunters as early as 1776 (12:361). Some names, such as Frozen Camp and Louse Camp Run, indicate problems these hunters encountered. Camp

Mistake "was a real camp of misery to the many deer hunters there who were tormented by vast swarms of flies and mosquitoes" (3:1).

Another area of place names given by these first explorers are those names which indicate the difficulty of the terrain. Names such as Hell Creek, Hell Run, and Hell for Certain Branch are examples. A large area of Pocahontas County was called the Wilds of Pocahontas until the twentieth century. This area of almost impenetrable yew forest was also known as The Wilderness (25:170). Nearby is Hell-for-Certain Branch that was sometimes known as Hateful Run and indicates the ruggedness of the stream (11:304). A captain by the name of Harman apparently named Hell Creek in Logan County when he stated "This is Hell" when confronted with an impassible rock barrier (11:91).

Not all names are as obvious however. The pleasant-sounding Laurel Hills, borrowed from the French Mons de Lauriens (11:362), reminds one of the laurel which was dreaded by the pioneers for its thickness and difficulty. Gist's Journal speaks of crossing "over a bad Laurel Creek . . ." (11:362) and Walker's Journal records "we crossed a Creek that we called Dismal Creek, the banks being the worst and the Laurel the thickest I have ever seen" (11:362).

CHAPTER 3

Claiming the Land

One of the earliest attempts to claim the land was that by Lord Fairfax. He had inherited an extensive six million acre estate from his mother, the only daughter of Lord Thomas Culpepper (31:335). The grant which dated from a 1669 grant by Charles II to friends of the royal family included all the land between the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers. In 1736 he had had a survey done of his domain, but by 1745 Lord Fairfax's titles were being threatened by numerous squatters (31:335). Chiefly responsible for these interlopers was Joist Hite, an Alsatian from Holland, who in 1732 had led sixteen families to the Opequon and by 1740 had settled thirty-four tracts in the area of Jefferson and Berkeley counties (2:93). Consequently, Lord Fairfax employed the young George Washington to survey the land. By 1746 the Fairfax Stone had been placed at the headwaters of the Potomac and the land was being granted on ninety-nine year leases. The grants consisted of a hundred acres sold for "a small down payment called a 'composition money' plus an equal amount of quit rent to be paid each year on the feast day of Saint Michael the Archangel'" (31:335). This system of perpetual rent remained in effect until 1776 when the old order was abolished in the Revolution and clear title was

given to the former tenants (31:335). Lord Fairfax owned and laid off the town of Romney which he named for one of the Cinque Ports of his native England. (28:114).

Soon after Lord Fairfax began to develop his lands, other Virginia gentlemen began to organize companies to develop the west. In 1747 the Ohio Company was formed by Lawrence and Augustus Washington, George Fairfax, Col. Cresap and others to develop a vast tract of 200,000 acres in Northwestern Virginia. Christopher Gist was employed for the company as surveyor (22:14). In 1751 a similar company, The Loyal Company, was organized to settle 800,000 acres on the southern frontier of Virginia (2:88).

In 1769 Benjamin Franklin among others attempted to organize a new colony to be called Vandalia after the English queen who imagined she was descended from the Vandals. This Vandalia Company was to settle 2,500.000 acres in the west. Much of the land was granted to veterans of the Indian wars (2:116-7). The capital was to be called Vandalia and was to be located at Point Pleasant. While a few colonist did settle, clear land, build houses and plant orchards, these companies were not successful in claiming the land mainly because disturbances in America stayed the king's hand in giving approval and the war ended the colony (28:103). A few names such as Mercer's Bottom, a wide fertile tract of 16,000 acres granted to Gen. Hugh Mercer, (31:425) and several tracts that bear Washington's own name--Washington's Bottom

that bordered the Ohio River for "5 miles and 700 poles" are reminders of these attempts to settle the land (28:168). These aristocratic systems of land ownership was not to be the permanent one however for many ridges, valleys, creeks, glades, and islands bear the names of the ordinary men who followed the explorers and hunters to claim the land for themselves.

The Indians, however, objected to the white men's developments, and in 1763 George III forbade settlement west of the Allegheny Front. This range was accepted as the dividing line between the English and the powerful Indians of the Six Nations (28:31). Had the white men accepted this line, the history of West Virginia and its place names might have been entirely different. However, they did not. In fact white men already were beginning to settle west of that line. Thirty miles above Point Pleasant can be found Le Tort's Creek, a small stream that empties into the Ohio. This stream reminds one of James Le Tort, a Pennsylvania fur trader who began to live permanently and trade in that area before 1740 (9:27). An Indian trail crossed the Ohio River near this point and passed on into the country and into the Kanawha valley. Indians came to trade at this post. The town of Letart in Mason County also commemorates this early settler.(9:32).

John Amberson, a squatter in the Ohio Valley in the late 18th century attempted to organize the squatters along

the river into a legal form of government. In 1785 he declared: "All men have an undoubted right to pass into every vacant country" (9:83). Amberson's Island, consisting of 150 acres of extremely fertile soil, was recorded by Merriweather Lewis in 1803 (9:85) and survived as a name well into the nineteenth century despite the fact that it was bought in 1797 for "5 Shilling Current Money of Virginia" by Joel Buffington (9:84).

These squatters rights were protected by land laws that encouraged settlement. By deadening trees around the property and by cutting names or initials on line trees, settlers could lay claim to the property. These tomahawk rights were generally accepted and were considered legal enough to be sold to others (8:162). In October 1777 an act of the Virginia General Assembly made an allowance of 400 acres for every farm that was settled in the west before June 24, 1776 (8:162).

First and foremost in claiming the earth are those names that put a man's stamp upon the land. The first white man in the vicinity of Harrison County was a trapper and hunter named John Simpson. This man established his camp in 1764 on the bank of the West Fork River opposite Elk Creek. Today his name can be found in such Harrison County names as Simpson, Simpson Creek, and Simpson District (28:152-3). Kelly's Creek commemorates the first settler in the Kanawha Valley. Walter Kelly came from North Carolina and settled

there in 1773 (31:442). In like manner Isaac Williams took up a 400 acre site opposite the mouth of the Muskingham River and established Williamstown (22:12). David Tygart and his friend Files settled and gave their names to the Tygart Valley and Files Creek in 1753-54 (19:38).

Many of the names remind the modern reader of the character of these early pioneers. Parr's Point in Marshall County was named for plucky Nathaniel Parr who took up tomahawk rights in 1770. He had lived harmoniously with the Indians, but on a hunting trip one day he killed a deer and hung it in a tree to return to get it next day. When he returned, he was ambushed by five Indians. He succeeded in killing two of them before he was shot in his right arm. He continued to fight bravely however. He protected himself by jumping between two rocks and by throwing stones at the remaining Indians until they were completely unnerved by his resourcefulness. He was rescued by his father several hours later and, although crippled in his right arm, lived on to age ninety (18:365).

Another type of pluckiness was revealed by Obadiah Paden who took up 2,000 acres along the Ohio River. According to family tradition, he too lived as a harmonious neighbor with an Indian chief who lived on a near-by island in the river. The Indian, Munsie, greatly admired a gun and a powder horn owned by Paden. One day Munsie told Paden that in a dream he had seen the white man present them to him as a gift.

Following Indian tradition, Paden duly presented the gun and powder horn to him. However, a week later Paden told Munsie of another dream: one in which the Indian gave the island to the white man! Paden received the island and lived on to father ten children and gave his name to Paden City, Paden Fork, and Paden Island (31:491).

Many names may not at first be recognized as names of the first white men in an area. This may be true of Savage River and Big Savage Mountain. These names are not descriptions of a vicious place or of the savage inhabitants but are the namesakes of Thomas Savage, who first entered the area as a member of an expedition in 1736 (28:59). The story behind Miracle Run does not tell of a miraculous vision or of a miraculous escape but of John Merrical, an early settler (4:11). Also Friendly is not a description of the residents of the Tyler County community but of its founder, Friend Williamson (11:255).

Strange Creek has one of the saddest stories to tell. It is indeed a strange story that is associated with the stream and the man for whom it was named. It appears that William Strange was separated from the rest of a surveying party near the headwaters of the Elk River. He was never heard of again. Years later a skeleton was found under a beech tree forty miles from where he was last seen. A rifle and shot pouch were leaning against the tree upon which was

written: "Strange is my name and I'm on strange ground. / And strange it is I can't be found" (31:406).

Some of these names also reveal the nationality of the early settlers. Most of these men were from the British Isles or from Germany. Various French Creeks around the state commemorate early French adventurers but not settlers. The first settler in what is now West Virginia was Morgan Morgan, a Welsh man who settled in 1726 (29:633). His descendants were to give the name to Morgantown (11:428). An area of Greenbrier County is known as Irish Corner, and there is an England Run in Braxton County. Shepherdstown was for many years known as New Mecklenburg because it was settled by Germans from that place (25:2), and Germany Valley takes its name because of the numerous Germans who settled there in 1760 (25:127). Of special interest in this area is Dolly Sods. It is the anglicized version of Dahle, and is named after Johann Dahle, a Hessian who first settled in that Pendleton County area (25:121).

Wherever one looks, one finds names commemorating early settlers. Three Brisco brothers took up tomahawk claims on three islands in the Ohio River, and today the Three Brothers Islands honor them (22:2). Shavers Fork was given its name to honor Peter Shaver who built his cabin on Shavers Mountain (25:102). Sharp's Run in Pleasants County was given for "a man named Sharp . . . [who] first settled on that fork of Cow Creek." (22:33).

Sevell Mountain, Reader, Peterstown, Hoker's Creek, Marlinton, Holliday's Cove, Hedgesville, Frankford, Champe Rocks, Bunnell Run, the romantic Blennerhassett Island, Boothsville, Bennetts Run, Abrams Run, Eagle Rocks, Flemington and numerous other creeks, runs, branches, mountains, towns, and islands tell the story of the earliest settlers of western Virginia. Almost every important settler of the eighteenth century has his family name perpetuated in some river, town, or city. Indeed a study of West Virginia's place names reads like a kind of hall of fame of the early explorers, hunters, and especially the settlers who left safety in the East to conquer and claim the wilderness of the West. They left their names scattered throughout the state to remind later generations of their sacrifices and of their desires for a new life.

CHAPTER 4

Defending the Land

"Montani Semper Liberi" proclaims the West Virginia state motto. The first white men who moved into the area of West Virginia were indeed intrepid, freedom-loving adventurers. From the beginning they faced not only a hostile and uninviting environment but also the bellicose savages.

A map of West Virginia is dotted with place names that are reminiscent of the heroic struggles of the white men with the Indians. While few Indian settlements were made in West Virginia, it was claimed as a hunting preserve by the Indian tribes who justifiably resented the encroachment of the whites. The Indians usually attacked in small bands and preyed upon the cabins and farms of the early pioneers. They quickly learned to surprise farmers who were cultivating their fields, to lie in ambush along paths to springs, to attack a cabin when the protector was away, burning the cabin, driving off the cattle, and carrying women and children into captivity (25:90).

The design of their marauding was to discourage settlement on the frontier. Frequently it only determined the hearty pioneers to intensify the struggle and move farther westward. The first white man to enter Tucker County

may have been James Parsons, who stumbled upon the area of the Cheat River when he was trying to find his way back to the South Branch valley. He had been captured by the Indians, had escaped, and was returning home when he discovered a valley with much holly. He eventually found his way back to the South Branch and was instrumental in leading a settlement into the Cheat River area of Parsons and Holly Meadows (25:102).

Many of the first pioneers paid with their lives. Kate's Mountain in Greenbrier County bears the name of Kate Carpenter who fled to the mountain and hid near a spring in October 1764 after Indians had killed her husband Nathan. She stayed there until danger had passed before returning to her White Sulphur Springs home (25:162).

In 1780 Indians came to the home of Edward Doolin on Doolin Run in Wetzel County and stole his slave. They returned the next morning and shot and scalped him when they found him standing in his yard. His wife, however, lying in bed with a newborn baby, was not molested (17:214). The next year 1781, Peter Shavers, who gave his name to Shavers Mountain in Randolph County, was killed by Indians (25:102).

In the spring of 1782, a hunting party of five men went up Big Fishing Creek. When they returned to their camp at sunset, a man named J. J. Crow and his companion entered the camp first. Crow's companion left the camp to get some wood. It was then that the Indians surrounded the camp. Crow

attempted to flee but was shot and killed instantly. His companion fled to the company of the other three hunters. When the party approached the camp, the Indians became alarmed and fled. The hunters secured Crow's body in a hollow sycamore tree to protect it from wolves and immediately left for Ft. Henry. They returned with reinforcements four days later to give proper burial to the man. The creek upon which Crow's body lies has since been called Crow's Run (17:213).

This process of attrition might have won the day for the Indians had it not been for the development of the fort. Myers lists ninety-one forts that were built within the limits of present-day West Virginia between 1749 and the close of the Revolutionary War. The county with the largest number of forts was Monongalia with eleven forts; Ohio County had seven; Randolph and Harrison each had six forts, and Hampshire and Marshall counted five. There were forts in nearly every county in northern and central West Virginia and along the Kanawha and New River (17:159-81).

These forts included stockade forts with corner block-houses as well as single blockhouses. The fort was often the residence of the builder and frequently bore his name; yet it was also used as a place of refuge for the other settlers in the area. Most of the frontiersmen stayed at their farms and did not move into the forts until an alarm (frequently a murder) announced that Indians were in the area (30:96).

The Indians, who usually traveled in small bands of warriors, seldom attacked these forts and less often took them. Therefore, as long as these forts remained a safe haven for the inhabitants, it was impossible to destroy the western settlements (18:163).

When the Indian wars ceased, the need for the forts ended. Consequently, most of the forts as place names have also gone. Only Fort Ashby, Fort Seybert, and Upper Tract survive as towns today. The names of forts live on in other forms however. Fort Warden, a small stockade erected by William Warden before 1749, was overcome by Indians and burnt in 1758. The site today is occupied by the present town of Wardensville in Hardy County (17:163).

One of the heroic battles of the Indian wars occurred at the fortified home of Samuel Bingaman in Grant County. The Indians caught the residents off-guard, shot into the cabin, wounding Bingaman's wife, and then burst through the door into the fort. They were met by Bingaman and his empty rifle. He single-handedly defended his home and beat to death five of the seven invaders. The others fled, but Bingaman gave chase and shot another Indian with a rifle that had been dropped by the party (25:126).

It is ironic that Fort Seybert and Upper Tract still exist, for the tragedy of the era of the forts lies in the stories of those two forts. In 1756 when George Washington commanded the defense of the Virginia frontier, he wrote:

"there only remains one body of inhabitants at a place called Upper Tract who need a guard. Thither I have ordered a party" (25:127). Subsequently the fort was built. On April 27, 1758 the fort was attacked by Killbuck. No one lived to tell of the circumstances of the attack. Two dozen defenders, under the command of Captain James Dunlop, were slain, and the place was burned (17:162).

The next day Fort Seybert, "a strong fort having cabins, palisades, and block houses," (7:56) was attacked. After a three-day siege, the builder and commander of the fort, Captain Seybert, was tricked into believing all would be spared if he surrendered. All the inhabitants were summarily executed except ten, including James Dyer, a boy of fourteen, and Captain Seybert's fifteen-year-old son. James Dyer escaped two years later to tell the story (25:127). As Killbuck stood demanding the fort's surrender, Seybert's son drew a bead on him. His father stopped the boy from killing the warrior. When the boy told Killbuck of the moment when he could have killed him, Killbuck said:

> You young rascal! If you had killed me, you would have saved the fort, for had I fallen, my warriors would have immediately fled, and given up the siege in despair! (7:57)

In the fall of 1786, a party of Indians captured Mrs. Elizabeth Drygoo and Charles, her four-year-old son, while they were in the field gathering beans. This incident occurred on Buffalo Creek near Prickett's Fort. The Indians, fearful of being apprehended, tied Mrs. Drygoo on a pony and

fled at great speed. On the flight, the pony jumped a run and the calf of one of Mrs. Drygoo's legs was torn open by a sharp limb of a tree. She became very weak from loss of blood. The Indians, fearing she would hold them back, killed and scalped her on a run of North Fork of Fishing Creek. This run has ever since been referred to as Betsy"s Run after her. Her son grew to manhood and married among the Indians. Two of his children were returned to the whites by the Morgan Treaty at the mouth of the Little Muskingum (17:218).

Fort Van Meter in Ohio County was built by John Van Meter whose wife, daughter, and two small sons were murdered by the Indians in 1789. Three other sons--John, Abraham, and Isaac--were taken captive. His daughter Hannah was washing at a spring and was bent over when she was killed with a tomahawk in the back of her head. Simon Girty, the renegade, later related that the Indians were regretful of having killed her when they discovered that she was so young and beautiful. The spring today is still known as Hannah's Spring (6:283).

In 1774 there was only one fort (Fort Pitt) on the western frontier to protect the influx of white settlers. As a result of this fact, Fort Fincastle was built by Colonel Ebenezer Zane and John Caldwell to protect the settlers around the Zanesburg settlement at the mouth of Wheeling Creek. The fort was named Fincastle in honor of Lord Dunmore whose second title was Fincastle. In 1776 the fort was

renamed to honor Patrick Henry (19:49). Fort Henry reflects the changing loyalties of the American frontiersman. It bore the name of the last colonial governor of Virginia and the name of the first patriot governor of Virginia.

Fort Henry was more than just a defense for the Zanesburg settlers; it was the scene of the greatest battle of any frontier fort. It survived three attacks by the Indians, two of them led by British soldiers (19:50). Led by the turncoat Connally and the Girty brothers, 350 Shawnee, Mingo, and Wyandot Indians attacked the fort in 1777. During this siege, the defenders stated that they would not surrender and they would rather die than seek protection of "an army of savages marching under the British flag" (19:53).

It was during this siege that Major Sam McColloch led forty-five mounted men from Fort Van Meter to reinforce the embattled fort. As they arrived, the gate was thrown open. The men, although beset by Indians, entered safely except McCulloch who was cut off. He wheeled his horse and galloped up Wheeling Hill, intending to return to Fort Van Meter that way.

The Indians recognized him and were in hot pursuit because he had a great reputation among them as a brave fighter. At the top of the hill, McCulloch encountered another band of Indians returning from a marauding expedition. Soon his original pursuers and this new group had him hemmed in on three sides above a fifty-foot cliff

into Wheeling Creek. Realizing that death was certain if he did not leap, McCulloch urged his horse over the brink. In awe the Indians looked down to see horse and rider dash across the creek and to safety beyond their reach. The spot today is known as McCulloch's Leap (18:104).

Fortune did not always smile on McCulloch though. On July 30, 1782, Sam and his brother John were scouting for Indians. After a day-long tour without incident, they were returning home. Perhaps they should have been more careful as they reached a place known as Girty's Point. This place took its name from the renegade Simon Girty who had escaped capture in this area because of the steep and rugged terrain. As they arrived at this point, they were fired on by a group of Indians. Sam fell with the first volley of bullets, but his brother escaped with his enraged enemies in hot pursuit. The next morning the men from Fort Van Meter went out to recover the body. They found the body of their commander where he had fallen; they also found that his heart had been cut out of his body. The Indians had taken his heart and eaten it, hoping to acquire some of his personal valor (5:342).

When the fort was attacked for the second time in 1781, Colonel Zane watched his cabin being burned and vowed to remain in his cabin if the fort were ever attacked again. On September 11, 1782 the Indians attacked Fort Henry for the last time. It was during this siege that Betty Zane made her

heroic run from the fort to the nearby cabin of her father to replenish the dwindling supply of gun powder in the fort. True to his word, Colonel Zane had refused to leave his home and successfully held off attempts of the Indians to burn it. Today the Fort Henry Bridge is near the site of the original fort.

This was the last battle of the Revolution. Fort Henry, its defenders, and all other frontier forts had successfully protected America's back door for Washington. The British had hoped to draw Washington's troops from the East. Had they done so, it probably would not have changed the course of history with freedom-loving people such as these. Is it any wonder that George Washington said:

> Leave me but a banner to plant upon the mountains of West Augusta, and I will gather around me the men who will lift our bleeding country from the dust and set her free (31:368).

CHAPTER 5

Building the Land

With the end of the Revolutionary War, the western Virginia frontier began a period of peace and quiet. This era allowed the frontiersmen to begin to build permanent homes and to develop the country into a civilized state.

The first homes in those early days were log cabins. This universal frontier house is no doubt the source of numerous streams bearing the name of cabin, such as Kanawha County's Cabin Creek, Mercer County's Double Cabin Branch, and Mineral County's Ashcabin Run. The cabin was often roofed by slabs and was frequently remodeled into a clapboard house as the owner prospered. Frequently all dwellings had puncheon floors. These elements are remembered in place names as well: Clapboard Run, Boardhouse Run, Puncheoncamp Branch, and Slab Creek.

It is natural for man to desire a better home and as prosperity came so came brick houses. Red House in Putnam County took its name from a colonial Georgian, two-story building built by Joseph Ruffner prior to 1825 (31:420). Danville in Boone County was earlier known as Red House also (19:206). New Cumberland, established in 1839, was formerly known as Brick Bend because of brickyards established there (31:483).

After building a home, the settlers soon began to think about building a house of worship. Of special interest in the development of the country are those names showing the religious faith of the settlers. Ever since 1783 when Virginia granted religious toleration for settlers west of the Blue Ridge (23: 181), western Virginia had become a refuge for dissenters. Their religious faith and knowledge is seen in place names throughout the state in such names as Canaan, (so named when an early settler said, "Behold the land of Canaan!" [25:103]), Mount Nebo, Nebo, Mount Carmel Ridge, Palestine, Mount Zion, and Bethany.

The idea of finding a land of plenty has influenced many names. A group of Scotch Presbyterians, who found abundant water and fertile land in Ritchie County, compared their lot to the children of Israel and named their new home Cairo (12:500). Also, an early name of the Dunloup Creek Valley was Egypt because of the luxuriant and abundant pea vines which grew there in the early spring, affording a good food source for the cattle of the early settlers.

The variety of religious groups can be seen in various place names. Salem, settled in 1794 by a religious group from New Jersey, means "peace" (28:147). Ansted was first settled in 1790 by Baptists and was known as New Haven in 1830 (31:437). Dunkard Creek was named for an early group of "German Baptist Brethren who were called Dunkards because of their practice of baptism by immersion" (4:11), and Shinnston

was settled by Levi Shinn who lead a number of Quakers into the West Fork Valley (31:393). Alderson in Monroe County and Asbury in Greenbrier County are reminders of the first Baptist preacher west of the Alleghenies (28:11) and an early minister of the Methodist Church (11;86).

Some names come from the church building itself. Churchville in Lewis County was named "from the Baptist and other churches" there (11:171). Advent in Jackson County was named for the leading church in the community, the Advent Christian Church (11:74). The Rev. Samuel Black, a Methodist circuit rider, established a church and village at Black's Chapel (31:389), and Athens was until 1891 known as Concord Church because of a church built and used by many denominations (11:88). The name still exists in the form of Concord College.

These first settlers were chiefly farmers. The acquisition of enough land to make one self-sufficient was the goal of all the small farmers who entered the west. This interest and preoccupation with agriculture has left its mark on the place names of West Virginia also. Berkeley County's Apple Pie Ridge earned its name form the renown of the Quaker women's apple pies of the area (31:320). Such farming names as Potato Hole Knob, Tobacco Run, Dairy Hollow, and Chickenhouse Run can also be found.

After acquiring land it was necessary to have a legal, undisputed claim to the land. This necessitated the erection

of court houses to handle the land records, marriage records, wills, deed, transfers and all the attendant records necessary to maintaining one's legal claim to the land in a civilized state. Consequently population centers developed to carry out the legal, social, and religious needs of a growing society. Many of these centers carried the name of their primary function in the early days. Harrisville was known as Ritchie Court House in 1843 (31:410). Likewise, the county seat of Clay County was once called Clay Court House (31:412). In 1849 Wayne was called Wayne Court House (31:480). While never called Monroe Court House, Union was established for that purpose only for in 1799, when Monroe County was formed, there was found to be no town within the county boundaries (31:382). Indeed most of West Virginia's cities have their roots in the decades following the surrender of Cornvallis at Yorktown in 1781: Clarksburg was founded in 1785, Morgantown and Charleston the following year, Elizabethtown (later renamed Moundsville) in 1803, Kingwood in 1811, and Buckhannon in 1816.

The growth of a civilized state can also be seen in the development of West Virginia's counties. Only five of West Virginia's counties--Hampshire (1754), Berkeley (1772), Mongolia (1776), Ohio (1776), and Greenbirer(1778)--predate the surrender of Cornvallis at Yorktown. Between 1784, when Harrison County was formed, and 1860, when Webster County was created, forty-five counties were created. Eight of those

were formed between 1784 and 1800!

The development of these towns was, however, dependent on the construction of roads. The early nineteenth century was the period when the major transportation arteries were cut through the forest to tie the early settlements of the Virginia frontier together and to their sister cities farther east. "The road was probably the most important social and commercial development of the period" (24:77). During this time the National Road, begun in 1811, was completed to Wheeling in 1817 (28:119), the Northwestern Turnpike reached Parkersburg in 1838 (28:121), the Staunton and Parkersbufg Turnpike was developed between 1824 and 1847 (31:375), and a stage line was first run along the James River and Kanawha Turnpike in 1827 (31:427). Most of these highways were toll roads and were called turnpikes from the gates at which tolls were collected. The town of Tollgate in Ritchie County still reminds the modern reader of the importance of these early routes across the mountains (12:594).

Distances were important to these early travelers, and many names reflect this concern. Eight Mile Ridge was named in 1815 when the first road in Wetzel County was opened from Reader to Middlebourne (14:50). Middlebourne itself was named because it was halfway for travelers between Pennsylvania and the old salt wells on the Kanawha (28:112). Frequently towns sprang up where these early roads met or crossed. An early name for Spencer was Tanner's Crossroads

(19:246), and the town of Cross Lanes also reflects this pattern.

Many inns grew up along these routes to serve the needs of travelers. Later these places became trade and population centers. Roney's Point in Ohio County began as one of the most famous stopping places which spring up to serve traffic on the National Road. Here was established in 1818 the Old Stone Tavern which was a two-story, eleven room building which was later enlarged by the addition of nine more rooms (31:517). Glen Ferris was until 1895 known as Stockton. This town was named for Col. Aaron Stockton who kept a popular tavern at the end of the stagecoach line on the James River and Kanawha turnpike (31:439). Bartow in Pocahontas County was known as Travelers Repose until 1904. This name arose from a popular stagecoach stop on the Staunton-Parkersburg turnpike (31:506).

The importance of these wayside rest stops was of incalculable benefit to early travelers because of the difficulty and dangers attendant to travel--which included inclement weather. The Trotter Brothers were contracted to carry the mail between Travellers Repose and Huttonsville between 1855-58. It appears that the postmasters complained about the irregular deliveries. When the Post Office inquired, the Trotter Brothers sent this reply:

Mr. Postmaster General

Washington, D.C.

Sirs:

If you knock the gable end of Hell out and back it up to Cheat Mountain and rain fire and brimstone for 40 days and 40 nights, it won't melt the snow enough to get your damned mail through on time.

Trotter Bros.

By James Trotter (31:517)

The story of Burnt House also relates another hazard of travel on the early turnpikes--especially for the peddlers. Here in the 1840's Jack Harris and his son William established the Harris Tavern, a stagecoach stop which soon became a center for mail service and a frequent stop for peddlers who traveled the highways.

In time it became apparent that the peddlers who arrived laden with goods sometimes disappeared. It was also noted that Deloris, one of the three slaves the Harris' brought with them, began to appear adorned in finery beyond her station. Rumor had it that William Harris was especially fond of Deloris. Rumors also spread concerning the disappearance of the peddlers. A ravine across the turnpike became known as Dead Man's Hollow where it was said that the peddlers lay with cut throats. These rumors so affected the business of the stagecoach company that it employed the

Pinkerton Detective Agency to investigate. Jack and William Harris hastily sold the tavern, Deloris, and another slave to Susan Groves and disappeared into the West.

The Harris Tavern was a large two-story structure with a glass windowed lookout. Sometime later, on a Sunday morning, the service in a nearby church was interrupted by the smell of fire. The tavern was engulfed in flames, and Deloris, dressed in her finest, could be seen dancing in the lookout until it collapsed into the flames. "Stagecoaches continued to stop in front of the 'burnt house' to deliver the mail" (31:36). In time the village took the name of Burnt House (31:34-6).

In a mountainous region, roads imply bridges and ferries. At first the settlers depended on fords for crossing the numerous streams, but these were frequently unreliable and difficult to navigate. Ferries, first propelled by hand poles and later by steam, soon developed. Harper's Ferry, West Virginia's eastern doorway was one of the sites of the earliest river crossing. Ice's Ferry in Monongalia County was started in 1785 and was the "first authorized ferry in western Virginia" (11:322). Watkins Ferry in Berkeley County was the entrance to the Braddock's Road (28:170). Glen Ferris in Fayette County was also known as Montgomery's Ferry (11:341).

With prosperity came the construction of bridges. In Lewis County a bridge was constructed over Alum Fork and the

town of Alum Bridge grew up there (11:78). Gauley Bridge takes its name from a bridge built by the James River and Kanawah Turnpike for $1800 in 1822 (31:438). In like manner, Cheat Bridge grew up where the Staunton and Parkersburg Pike crossed the Cheat River (11:166).

Today Philippi is noted for its famed covered bridge, built by Lemuel Chenoweth in 1852 (19:204). The earlier names of Philippi, however, reveal the changes that took place in transportation in western Virginia. The town grew up around the home of William Anglin, who settled there in 1783, and was first known as Anglin's Ford (31:509). Later, around 1800 when Daniel Booth began operating a ferry there, it became known as Booth's Ferry (28:131). Had it not become the county seat of Barbour County and named in honor of Philip Pendleton Barbour in 1843, it might well be known as Chenoweth Bridge today!

While the area of West Virginia remained primarily agricultural in the early nineteenth century, one does witness in the place names the beginning of industries. Many of these are also related to life in a rural state and life on the frontier. Leadmine Run and Gun Barrel Hollow (said to have been the home of a gun smith) (11:19) remind one that the gun was still important to the early settlers and that they customarily made their own bullets (11:19). Slaughter House Hollow, Smokehouse Branch, and Blacksmith Run still remind one of agricultural-related industries. Big Chimney

was named for the furnace and chimney of the early salt industry (11:22). Valley Furnace, Bloomery Run and Bloomery District in Hampshire County tells that the iron industry had an early beginning in the manufacture of pig iron prior to the Civil War (28:25).

However the most vital industry to those early frontiersmen was the mill. The flour mill was of utmost importance. Later, the saw mill provided lumber for house and other buildings. Frequently the mill was the first social center on the isolated frontier. It was the place where men and women gathered, where trading posts and later post offices were established, villages grew up around them. West Virginia place names that reflect this activity abound in all parts of the state. Ronceverte was first established as Edgar's Mill by Thomas Edgar in 1800 (31:381). Scotts Mill Run earned its name when David Scott first build his mill there (4:10). Wackersville in Lewis county was first known as Bennett's Mill for William Bennett who "lived 29,780 days without guile and without reproach, the progenitor of 249 living descendants' at the time of his death (31:391). Ripley was named for Rev. Harry Ripley who died from an attempt to cross Mill Creek in high water (11:532). Mill Creek itself was named when William Currence established a grist mill there (31:377). East Lynn in Wayne County was earlier known as Adkins Mill for a mill established by Attison Adkins. Every West Virginian is aware of Jackson's

Mills. The map of West Virginia denotes the importance of this early industry: Falls Mills, Mill Point, McCoy's Mills, Millstone Run, Blaker Mills, Clifton Mills, and Bruceton Mills.

However, the symbol of the conquering of the wilderness was perhaps the railroad. With the arrival of the steam engine any community, however small, became in touch with and an integral part of the great world beyond mill creek, the covered bridges, the travellers' inns, and the rail fences.

It was the railroad that was really responsible for the great development of West Virginia. Rosebys Rock, named for Roseby Carr who was in charge of the construction, marks the site where the final spike of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was driven on Christmas Eve, 1852 (31:489). Work on this railroad had begun twenty-five years earlier; after overcoming many political obstacles, drilling eleven tunnels through mountains, and crossing more than 100 streams and rivers, the crews from Fairmont and Wheeling finally joined in a narrow valley alongside a large glacial rock eighteen miles from Wheeling (24:167).

As soon as the main line was completed, many branch lines began to be developed. When the Irish construction crew arrived at Grafton in 1852, they found only a wilderness of briars and grapevines. Within four years, however, a railroad village had sprung up there and railroad crews were referring to it as the "graftin' on point" (31:510) because

of the many branches that joined the main line there. This village soon developed into the town of Grafton (31:510) and became the eastern terminus of a railroad branch that reached Parkersburg by June 1, 1857 (24:168).

Wherever the railroad went new growth appeared. New towns developed and older towns grew greater. The village of Central in Doddridge County was so named because it was halfway between Parkersburg and Grafton (11:162). The growth of civilization in western Virginia is parallel to the growth of the United States for the population center of the United States fell within the boundary of West Virginia four times from 1820 to 1850. In 1820 it was at Wardensville, in 1830 at Smoke Hole, in 1840 it was west of Buckhannon, and in 1850 near Burning Springs in Wirt County (28:134). This development, however, came to a sudden stop in 1861 with the outbreak of war. The new towns, new industries, trade, and developments of all types would have to wait until the war between the states had been settled.

CHAPTER 6

Dividing the Land

While the Civil War had a devastating effect on West Virginia politically and economically, it surprisingly has left few new place names behind it. After the war the new state created a Lincoln County and a Grant County to honor the heroes of the Union struggle. Grantsville was laid out in 1866 and named for General U.S. Grant (31:411). Lightburn in Lewis County is a village named for Union General Joseph A. J. Lightburn who, after the war, became a Baptist minister in that area (31:394).

Some place names can also be found that indicate the tensions that were building prior to the Civil War. Near Harpers Ferry can be found John Brown's Cave, which was apparently used as a cache for weapons in preparation for the attack on the Federal arsenal there (25:37). Also, Ceredo, a village in Cabell County, was established in 1857 by Eli Thayer of Massachusetts. Ceredo was named for Cerces, the Greek goddess of grain. Thayer, an ardent abolitionist hoped to create sentiment against slavery in the area by importing his fellow farmers from Massachusetts (28:35).

The name of West Virginia itself is a product of the Civil War. The Second Wheeling Convention on June 11, 1861 passed a resolution that provided for the formation of the

State of Kanawha (22:71). However, West Virginia was the winning name during the vote of the West Virginia Constitutional Convention. At that time West Virginia received thirty votes to Kanawha's nine. Other nominations were Western Virginia, Allegheny, and Augusta, each of which received two votes each (16:570).

However when one looks at important social and political place names associated with the nineteenth century, one finds that before the war they are dominated by the order and culture of the Old South. With the arrival of the war came a period of confusion and sorrow.

In the decades prior to the Civil War, western Virginia contained a number of towns of national reputation as centers of fashion. Indeed, West Virginia's tourist industry began with the popular health and social resorts that sprang up around the numerous mineral springs in West Virginia.

These springs had long been noted for their medicinal value. The Indians apparently knew of the health value of the waters of White Sulphur Springs and here in 1772 Amanda Anderson was brought to bathe in and drink its waters. Several weeks later she was completely cured of her rheumatism and word began to spread (19:216). Capon Springs was earlier known as Frye's Springs for Henry Frye, who in 1765, moved his family there because his wife suffered from rheumatism. She too was cured by using the mineral waters (25:61). The earliest record is that of the Warm Springs of

Morgan County, George Washington wrote in his diary of March 18, 1748, "this day call'd to see y Fam'd Warm Springs" while surveying for Lord Fairfax (31:170). These springs, considered by the Indians to be a gift of the Great Spirit, maintained a constant temperature of 74 degrees, which was deemed helpful in treating infantile paralysis, rheumatism and diabetes among other diseases (28:19). A traveler from Pennsylvania described the treatment in 1720: "The naked bather entered . . . and stayed as long as he could endure it and then [he would] exit and plunge into a pool of cold water" (25:147). Later, as the popularity of the spring increased, modesty required that the sexes take turns in their bathing and a horn was sounded when women were to have a turn at bathing (25:147).

However by the second quarter of the nineteenth century, these resorts, especially those surrounding White Sulphur Springs, had become notable primarily as a favorite rendezvous for the elegant of both the North and the South. Here they came to see and be seen, to chat, to laugh, to dance, and "each to throw his pebble on the great heap of general enjoyment" (31:428). In fact the springs became known as a cure for every "disease of bad habit except chewing, smoking, spitting, and swearing" (31:428).

But here the ruling classes, especially the wealthy Southerners whose purses were suddenly full of gold because of the rising value of their cotton (25:64) came to take a

tour of the waters and spend summers months at the springs (31:430), especially the big three resorts--Salt Sulphur Springs, Sweet Springs, and White Sulphur (31:382). Here statesmen and presidents and society of every type debated and rested in elegant rows of cottages, such as Paradise Row, Virginia Row, Georgia Row, Alabama Row, Baltimore Row, and Wolf Row. Each of these had special social distinctions (31:428). Paradise Row was peopled by young newlyweds and eager young belles brought "to the waters" in the hope of arranging desirable matches (31:428). But a visitor warned that unless "you be young and foolish, fond of noise, and nonsense, frolic and fun, wine and wassail, sleepless nights and days of headache, avoid Wolf Row" which was reserved for bachelors (31:429).

In Monroe County is a mountain known as Calders Knob. Calder was a South Carolinian who built a summer mansion there to be near the fashionable springs. The mansion had a 100-foot tower from which he believed he could see his native state. An enthusiastic secessionist, he burned this tower in celebration when he learned that South Carolina had fired on Fort Sumpter and captured it (31:382).

Like Calder's Tower the social life of these springs was ended with the arrival of the Civil War. Salt Sulphur Springs, built between 1820-30, served as Confederate headquarters during various campaigns (28:150). White Sulphur Springs' Old White Hotel, built in 1854, served at

various times as headquarters for both armies; its ballroom served as a hospital. It was saved in 1864 by General David Hunter because his artillery chief argued that it could be used as barracks (31:430). After the war these resorts languished, principally because of the impoverishment of Southern families and of the need to concentrate energy on rebuilding a nation.

The confusion accompanying the Civil War can be seen in names such as Madison. Madison, from the establishment of Boone County in 1847, was known simply as Boone Court House. However the court house was destroyed on September 1, 1861, in a skirmish between the 1st Kentucky Regiment of the Union Army and the local militia. During the remainder of the Civil War there was no local government. When civil government was restored in 1865, the town was reestablished as Madison to honor Charleston attorney Madison Laidley who was instrumental in the establishment of the county (19:206).

The confusion and lack of civil control can also be seen in the early history of Webster County. This county, the last formed before the Civil War, declared itself The Free and Independent State of Webster. There "the people of the territory involved met in a small room and declared that Webster was no longer a county of any state but was itself the free and independent state of Webster. George M. Sawyer of Williams River was proclaimed governor. After the war, West Virginia quite naturally ignored Webster's declaration

of independence and incorporated it as a county in the Mountain State" (31:206).

One of the most poignant stories of the Civil War era concerns Haunted Valley in the section of Fayette County's Peters Creek. There the story goes a band of soldiers buried alive one of their own whose death was imminent because they did not wish his body to be found by the enemy. When his dog refused to leave the grave of his master, the same soldiers shot it and buried it also. Legend has it that the valley is now traveled by the ghost of the soldier and his whimpering dog (10:252).

CHAPTER 7

Exploiting the Land

Following the war, West Virginians began to pursue with a passion the advance that began in the first half of the nineteenth century. Within a decade development had begun again, but this time it was aided by a transportation system capable of reaching with ease all the markets of the world. In the decades following the war, development concentrated on exploiting the valuable resources of the state, particularly gas and oil, lumber, and most important of all, coal.

George Washington made the first reference of the use of natural gas in 1775 when he was exploring along the the Kanawha River. He claimed a 123 acre tract "on account of a bituminous spring which it contains, of so inflammable a nature as to burst forth freely as spirits and is nearly as difficult to extinguish" (24:312). This same burning spring became a curiosity for many years. In 1843 when a salt well was sunk nearby, natural gas hurled the salt water 150 feet into the air. The roar could be heard for several miles. A visiting Harvard professor stopped to see what chemicals the vapor contained and struck a match. The entire well frame, engine house, and surrounding atmosphere burst into flame. Indeed, the professor only saved himself by jumping into the Kanawha River. The well owner sent to Charleston to find the

unknown passenger and arrest him for "willfully . . . burning property--unless you find . . . a natural damn fool [that] . . . didn't know better" (31:443). The said professor was duly found in a Charleston hotel with singed hair and eyebrows, and blistered hands and face. The owner's agent replied: "Under the circumstances, I feel it my duty to take advantage of the last clause . . ." (31:443).

However, petroleum was long a marked product of West Virginia but in the form of Seneca Oil. George Lemon, who came to Wirt County to develop a salt works, noticed that oil was floating on the water of the Hughes River. In a tedious process of digging pits to collect the oil, of soaking the oil up in blankets, of straining it, and of storing it in barrels before rafting it down the Hughes and Little Kanawha Rivers to markets on the Ohio River (22:79), Lemon managed to produce a highly valued product regarded as good in the "treatment of man and beast" (10:105).

However with the development of the Grafton-Parkersburg line the Burning Springs oil field began to be developed. The first oil well was drilled in May 1860 near the mouth of Burning Springs Run. This well produced at the rate of 100 barrels a day (24:313). Burning Springs at once became a center of the petroleum business. Everywhere wells were being sunk.

While exploration necessarily declined during the war, these wells continued to pump out oil. For this reason

General Jones and his Confederate forces raided Burning Springs and set fire to the oil stored there. In one day he destroyed an estimated 300,000 barrels of oil (28:140).

After the war exploration began again with renewed vigor. While many exploiters were doomed to disappointment, a map of West Virginia records the success of others. Tyler County today boasts an Oil Ridge. Volcano, now little more than a ghost town, was so named because "at night many fires and flares made it resemble the crater of an active volcano" (31:333). Oil Well Hollow in Pleasants County was named because of the many attempts to find oil in the hollow (22:83). Parkerville, a hamlet along the Ohio River Railroad was bought and the name changed to Belmont by Robert H. Browse in anticipation of oil prosperity (22:123). Layopolis in Gilmer County was named for William R. Lay, who was busy in the fields of Gilmer County (19:214) and Eureka, which means "I have found it" in Greek, was named when, after many disappointments, oil was struck in 1885, thus opening the Eureka oil field (31:493). Smithfield in Wetzel County was established shortly after a local oil boom (31:495).

This exploitation was financed by a number of wealthy industrialists who were eager not only to make fortunes for themselves but to leave their name behind them on the face of the map. These men invested heavily in railroads because it was the railroad that was capable of opening up the vast resources of the new state.

In the center of West Virginia was a large area of heavily timbered forests seen as an opportunity for profitable business on a large scale and to this place came the industrialists. They built railroads to open the country for industrial expansion and left their names behind on towns and villages and cities wherever their influence was felt. Camden-on-Gauley and Camden are named for Senator Johnson N. Camden and Richard P. Camden, nephew and uncle respectively who were both railroad builders and politically influential (31:362). Senator Stephen B. Elkins and Senator Henry Gassaway Davis left their names to Elkins, Gassaway, and Davis. They also named Thomas for Col. Thomas Davis their associate in developing the area (31:370).

Chaffee in Mineral County was named for Senator Jerome B. Chaffee of Colorado who was a business partner of Stephen B. Elkins and a large stockholder in the Western Maryland Railroad that opened that country (11:163). Henry Gassaway Davis also named Barnum, also in Mineral County for another friend he met in Congress: William H. Barnum of Connecticut who became a director of the West Virginia Central Railroad (11:95).

Henry Gassaway Davis married Kate Bantz in 1853 and apparently this alliance gave rise to Bantz, another place name that came with the opening of the mineral and lumber resources brought about by Henry Gassway Davis (11:92). So also was Keyser which had earlier been known as New Creek but

was renamed and incorporated as Keyser for William Keyser, vice-president of the railroad.

The opening of the lumber business also had its share of names. Richwood until 1900 had been known as Cherry Tree Bottoms. But in 1901 a branch of the B & O Railroad reached there and it became the leading lumber camp in West Virginia and was renamed Richwood because of the value of it products. In 1909 it produced 80 million feet of lumber in one year (19:237). Rainelle also changed its name from Sewell Valley when John and W. T. Raine, established the Meadow River Lumber Company (31:436). This place boasted the largest hardwood sawmill in the world form 1910-70 (19: 237). Alexander in Upshur County received its name from John M. Alexander, a partner in the Alexander Lumber Company (11:75). Kenova, named for the three states of Kentucky, Ohio, and Virginia, was founded when timber operations began on the Big Sandy River and it became a booming lumber town (19:251).

Perhaps the greatest industrialist of the time was Collis P. Huntington who took over the leadership of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company when it was facing financial difficulties. This gifted railroad magnate directed the company and saw the finishing of the railroad to the Ohio River at Holderby's Landing. There a new city grew up at this western terminus and was rightly named for the genius who saw its completion, Huntington (25:51).

By far the most new names to appear between the Civil War and the First World War were ones with connections to coal. Coal had always been know of in western Virginia. It was noted by John Peter Salley and his companions in 1742 when they crossed the Allegheny Mountains on an exploring expedition. They found and named the Coal River and followed it to its mouth at present day St. Albans (24:248). General Andrew Lewis spoke of a fuel that burned without smoke in 1774 (31:458), but coal really was not exploited until the railroads made mining profitable. Then whole areas of the state were opened up and developed. Older very small villages became boom towns and many new towns were founded.

The place names associated with King Coal fall into several categories: there are those names that existed earlier but grew to prominence with the arrival of the coal era; there are those that are associated with the product itself; and there are those that are named for the capitalists or for the coal companies that they founded.

Beckley was first founded in 1838 by Genral Alfred Beckley. It was jeered at as "Beckley's paper town" (31:458), but the last laugh was on his detractors for in 1873 when the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad arrived, Beckley grew rapidly into the "smokeless coal capital of the world" (31:458).

Bluefield, named for the blue fields of the area, was founded on land obtained in 1774 by John Davidson (28:26).

In 1883 it was barely more than two large farms, but in 1889 it was incorporated as one of the major cites of the Pocahontas coal field (31:471). Mt. Hope likewise saw a rapid growth. Incorporated in 1897, it grew rapidly as administrative center of the New River smokeless coal field. Robert Ripley's "Believe It or Not" records that Mount Hope in its heyday had a greater percentage of college graduates among its population than any other American city (19: 213).

Monongah, a shortened form of Monongahela, had originally been called Briartown when founded in 1768 by Captain James Booth in the "lonely wilds of West Augusta" (31:392). This town was the site of the worst mining disastaer in the nation when on December 6, 1907, explosions and fire wrecked two large mines. Three hundred sixty-one miners lost their lives and four who escaped from the mines later died of injuries (28:114). This disaster along with the destruction of Mount Hope on March 14, 1910, tells of the dangers of life associated with the mining industry.

Many names of places are indicative of the presence of coal. Gannet attributes the origin of Fayette County's Cannelton to "the beds of cannel coal in the vicinity" (11:152). This no doubt is the origin of Cannel Coal Hollow in Clay County. Kanawha County's Carbon, North Carbon, and South Carbon come form the Carbon Fuel Company. Coal City in Raleigh County was until about 1930 named Abney (after a surname) but was renamed Coal City "by Prince E. Lilly of the

West Virginia Land and Sales Company" (11:178). Tucker County's Coketown produced coke for mines in nearby Thomas. The name appears to have been given by the Davis Coal and Coke Company (11:181). Coalburgh, in.Kanawha County, was established when William H. Edwards began to open mines on Paint Creek in 1863. The astute investor discerned that the Confederacy had lost and there was therefore no reason not to get on with his mining project (7:63). Burnwell seems to describe the coal and proclaim the reason that coal became king in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

Many names came up from the names of the coal companies. William and Edwin Marmet founded the Marmet Coal company and established the town of Marmet (11:403). Ameagle, a Raleigh County community, was created from the syllables of the American Eagle Colliery (11:79). The Amigo Coal Company opened mines in Raleigh County which gave rise to Amigo (11:79) and Arcola in Webster County was earlier known as Hardwood when lumber was king, but the mining lobby won the day when the Lilly Coal Company opened a mine there and the town was renamed for "our coal"--Arcola--in 1905 (11:84).

The construction of the railroad has given much to the wealth of place names in West Virginia. When the rail line was built up Manns Creek, a dynamite blast brought many poisonous copperhead snakes raining down on the workers; fortunately, the weather was cold. Today the area is known as Copperhead Cliff (25:55). Sandstone in Summers County was

named for a quarry that was opened about 1880 to provide stone for the railraod and its bridges (11:553).

Big Bend Mountain gave rise to the Big Bend Tunnel when the C and O Railroad bored a tunnel more than a mile long through the tunnel in 1870-73. This tunnel gave rise to the ballad of John Henry, the steel drivin' man. John Henry, one of the many able-bodied Negro laborers who found work on the railroads after coming up from slavery, was employed to drive a steel drill into the rocks with a sledge hammer. He immediately saw a challenge with the newly invented steam drill. As the ballad proclaims, John Henry won. The steel driving' man could drive fourteen feet while the steam drill drove only nine. Whether real or legendary, the man stands for the heroic feats which the men of labor accomplished in building the nation (7:83-84).

Typical of the boom towns that grew up along the rail lines because of the mining industry are Fayette County's was Thurmond and its sister town Glen Jean. Thurmond was named for its founder, Captain William Dabney Thurmond, an ex-officer of the Confederate army. While in the Confederate service, Thurmond had organized an intelligence operation that spied on the enemy (25:56).

Thurmond obtained the seventy-three acres of property as payment for his services as a surveyor (33:27). It appears the far-seeing captain anticipated the importance of the location to the C and O Railroad in transporting coal.

Thurmond got an agreement from the railroad that all passenger trains would stop in Thurmond, and the railroad became the lifeblood of the town for Thurmond was a town without a street. It had no road in or out of it (33:27). A typical raiload and coal town developed. Gambling--poker, craps, and roulette--was its main attraction (33:27). Sex, assorted vices, murder, and mayhem soon followed. In 1906 the captain came to visit his town with the hotel he had built in 1891. A man of high morals and propriety, the captain was shocked and closed down his hotel with the only bar in town. The activity only moved across the river to Glen Jean which had been founded by William McKell and named for his mother in 1893 (7:105).

Glen Jean had originally been located five miles up Dunloup Creek, but it was extended to include McKell's hotel, the Dunglen that was located directly across the river from Thurmond. It appears that McKell was worried about the temperate influences of the captain on his establishment (33:27).

The Dunglen became the "place to go in the East" (33:27). This den of iniquity was handy to Glen Jean's wholesale liquor house, its retail saloons, gambling dens, and bawdy houses (33:29). Gambling was indeed the chief attraction. The story goes that two brothers left the mines for a night at the Dunglen and stayed eight years. One brother recalls:

> We once had $40,000 in the bank that we had won at the Dunglen. Prominent men came from everywhere to gamble. I have seen as much as $50,000 on the table at one time. It was nothing to see $5,000 change hands in a single game of poker. I saw a fellow win $6,000 at roulette in one night" (33:29).

Much of the lawlessness attributed to Thurmond was brewed in Glen Jean. Chief of the lawlessness officers was Glen Jean's mayor Leo Schaeffer. He presided over a town where, according to one Cincinnati newspaper, fourteen murders occurred in one week (33:29). This in a town where it was illegal to carry a handgun! (7:157). This same Leo Schaeffer is noted for an episode concerning a drowned man who was found with a gun and $35 on his body. As exofficio Coroner, Scheffer fined the corpse $25 for carrying the gun, confiscated the cash and gun, and notified county officials to bury the body at public expense (7:157).

Stories of such murder and mayhem abound in the towns made suddenly prospersous by coal. Proper Thurmond lived on, suffering a bad reputation because of its wicked sister Glen Jean. With access to the town difficult, Thurmond declined as coal declined in the twentieth century. In the decade from 1960-1970, Thurmond lost 54% of its population--more than any other town in the state (19:213). Today Thurmond has gained some renewal because of the white-water rafting.

CHAPTER 8

The Future of the Land

Time will reveal what place names will be dominant in the twentieth century. Enough time has elapsed, however, to reveal what the trends have been and what names will be dominant in the future. The history of place names in the early part of this century is much like the end of the nineteenth century. There is also evidence of the social changes of the twentieth century in West Virginia's place names. More and more one finds that recreation is becoming the dominant factor in the naming of new places.

Coal was still very dominant during World War I and in the decades following it. Kanawha County's Annfred, earlier known as Ten Mile, was established when the Campbell's Creek Railroad Company built a station for a newly opened mine. The name is a combination of a railroad official and his wife (11:145). The next year, 1916, the Amherst Coal Company opened three mines and used the company's opening syllables to form the name of the company town: Accoville (11:73). In 1918 the New Byrne Coal Company of Fairmont opened a mine in Monongalia County and the town of Byrne was created (11:145). Asco in McDowell County got its name in 1920 from the Atlantic Smokeless Coal Company (11:87); the Clear Creek Coal

Company created Clearco in 1929 (11:175); and Kopperston was the model town built by the Koppers Coal Company in 1938 (31:465).

But against this backdrop of coal towns, new industries can be seen. In Fayette County a coal town by the name of Carbon was changed to Boncar to avoid confusion with other towns named Carbon. However a new industry, the Electro Metallurgical Company began to produce a ferrochrome alloy, a combination of iron and chromium (31:440). Consequently in 1932, the town which depended upon the company, chose by a vote the name of Alloy as their new designation (11:77).

A significant name of this period was Nitro, a town created by the Explosives Plant Company. The plant was built in 1918 by the federal government to supply the American and Allied forces with smokeless powder. Practically overnight 1800 acres of farm land was transformed into a town of 25,000 people. The town was complete with water, sewage, utilities, schools, churches, hospitals, hotels, and stores. The manufacture of powder was abandoned at the end of the war, and in 1919 the entire plant was sold to a banking syndicate for $8,500,000 (11:418). Nevertheless, the creation of this plant was a harbinger of the rapid industrialization of the Kanawha Valley in the twentieth century.

The town of Weirton also was indicative of the rapid growth of industrialization in the northern Panhandle. The town is named for the powerful Weir family who bought a

bankrupt tin mill in Clarksburg in 1905, moved it to Weirton in 1910, and began to manufacture sheet steel (11:663). The mill grew into the largest steel mill in West Virginia and the town was incorporated in 1947 (28:171). Weirton's sister city, Follansbee, also grew up at this time and was named for the Follansbee brothers, who owned the mill there (31:485). The arrival of the electric age is also seen in place names. In Brooke County is the town of Power, named for a powerful electric plant nearby upon which the town is dependent (31:488).

The social reforms of the twentieth century do not go unnoticed in West Virginia place names. The New Deal's federal homestead projects are probably the most noticeable. Three such projects--the Red House Farms in Putnam County, the Tygart Valley Homesteads in Randolph County, and Preston County's Arthurdale--were managed by the Farm Security Administration (28:165). In these projects families were settled in eight types of model houses that were equipped with all the most modern conveniences in plumbing and electricity. Also provided were the amenities of a general store, health center, playground, and fire department (31:376). In fact the Red House Farms project gave rise to the village of Eleanor, named for Eleanor Roosevelt, the president's wife (31:420).

The feminist movement is noted also. Belva Lockwood, a pioneer in the feminist movement, died in 1917. She gave her

name to two Nicholas County post offices: Belva and Lockwood (7:148). During the sixties there was great emphasis on new, communal lifestyles, many of which had religious overtones. The newest name reflecting this movement is Marshall County's controversy-plagued community of New Vrindaban, which was founded by the Hare Krishnas.

Controversial lifestyles were not new in West Virginia, however. One of the most surprising names to appear during the early twentieth century is that of Booger Hole. Booger Hole, an area of Clay County, was so named by parents in an attempt to keep their children from going there and thus being contaminated by its residents. Booger Hole was populated by about a dozen families who had an obnoxious reputation. It was said that they "farmed a little during the day, drank hard at night, and fought hard among themselves in their spare time" (10:53). The community was finally broken up after a colorful murder trial. In that trial the defendant (and major attraction) was referred to by the prosecuting attorney as "an illiterate, weasel-eyed moron" (10:55).

In 1926 Col. Earl Oglebay died and bequeathed a large part of his Waddington Farms estate to the city of Wheeling "for as long as people shall operate it for the purpose of public recreation and education" (19:166). This bequest has developed into Wheeling's Oglebay Park. In this act one can see a trend that has continued to grow as the century has

passed. More and more one sees the establishment of recreational places.

Also developed in the 1920's were the national forests. From these programs have been developed such names as Stuart Forest Camp, a forest recreational area named for a former chief of the U.S. Forest Service (31:359). Gaudineer Knob, a high point on Shaver's Mountain, was named for a respected ranger who lost his life in an attempt to save his family from a fire (25:13).

With the development of hydroelectric plants and reservoirs have come a number of lakes. These lakes now appear in all parts of the state and not only have they become a major source of recreation but they also have given their names to places. Now can be found Cheat Lake, Alpine Lake Resort, Summersville Lake, Lake Shawnee, and even some residential communities such as Harrison County's Lake Floyd.

But the wave of the future for new place names in West Virginia is probably seen in the descriptive names of its new resorts. Names such as Winterplace, White Grass, Timberline, Snowshoe, and Silver Creek all reflect West Virginia's recreational potential and its newest industry. Only time can reveal what other activities, beliefs, interests, and heroes will be recorded in the names of West Virginia places.

CONCLUSION

What's In A Name

It has been stated that languages are the pedigrees of nations. This can also be said of place names. In a study of West Virginia's place names can be seen the original Indian claimants to the land, the passionate struggles between the white men and the Indians for control of the land, and the progressive and industrious effort of those men to build a prosperous civilization for themselves and their children.

What is in a name? When it comes to place names, it can be easily seen that the life of a people can be seen in the names. Upon the basic warp of the land is woven by the inhabitants a vivid woof. The resulting tapestry is a rich and beautiful record of the life of those people.

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